

Subject: Idaho does have a lagoon permeability requirement
To: eaton.thomas@epa.gov CN=Jennifer MacDonald/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA
Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov
Cc: peak.nicholas@epa.gov
From: CN=Eric Winiecki/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US
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I followed up with Nick Peak on the question of whether Idaho requires dairy lagoons to meet a permeability standard. Waste storage ponds constructed in Idaho must meet a minimum permeability of 1×10^{-6} cm/sec. (see top of page 5) This is consistent with the current NRCS standard. Nick says this requirement must be met for new lagoons, and if a dairy facility changes hands, all existing lagoons must be upgraded to meet this standard if they don't already meet it.

<http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/02/0414.pdf>

From pp. 4-5:

Waste Containment and Storage. (3-29-10)

a. Waste containment structures shall be constructed to meet a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of holding capacity. Wastewater containment structures that are utilized as the secondary or final storage for effluent shall have a minimum two (2) vertical feet of freeboard. (3-29-10)

b. Earthen waste containment structures less than ten (10) vertical feet high with a maximum high water line of eight (8) vertical feet shall be required to have a top embankment width of at least eight (8) feet and a minimum of one (1) vertical foot of freeboard shall be maintained. The combined inside and outside embankment slopes must be at least five (5) horizontal to one (1) vertical, and neither slope shall be steeper than two (2) horizontal to one (1) vertical. Earthen waste containment structures with outside embankments higher than ten (10) vertical feet from the naturally occurring ground level shall meet the NRCS Idaho Conservation Practice Standard Waste Storage Facility Code 313 December 2004 embankment requirements as incorporated by reference in Subsection 004.03 of these rules.

c. The inside bottom of the waste containment structure shall be a minimum of two (2) feet above the high water table, bed rock, gravel, or permeable soils. For an earthen waste containment structure, a soil liner shall be installed such that the specific discharge rate of the containment structure meet 1×10^{-6} cm³/cm²/sec or less as described in Appendix 10D. Concrete or synthetic liners must be constructed to the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Specification ASAE EP393.3